Nippon Times

No. 16,560 (THE 20th YEAR of SHOWA) TOKYO, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 1945 Price 25 Sen

STRUGGLE FOR BERLIN IS REPORTED AT PEAK

German Defenders Checking Powerful Enemy Tank Units in Southern Outskirts of City

Special to the Nippon Times

ZURICH, April 24.—The German radio declared on Monday night that "Fuehrer Hitler is in Berlin" and that the entire German people look with admiration at their Fuehrer. He is in immediate proximity to the main fighting line which runs right through the center of the German capital, the broadcast said. "He is right in the fire of the Soviet artillery falling into the center of the city. Millions of German eyes are turned toward Berlin and the German people are taking new heart at the example of soldier and statesman Fuehrer Adolf Hitler is setting." Meanwhile, the Hamburg radio announced that Propaganda Minister Dr. Joseph Goebbels also was staying in Berlin. Dr. Goebbels is reported to have declared, "There are two bastions which we cannot and will not cede," referring to the determination of the German people to defend Berlin to the last man.

Domei

ZURICH, April 24.—The Fuehrer's Headquarters announced Sunday that the fighting for the defense of Berlin had reached its peak. In the southern outskirts of the city, powerful enemy tank units are being held back by the German forces between Pyritz and Daharwitz. The Koepenik Railway Station, which was lost once, has been retaken. In the northern sector, the enemy spearhead has advanced to the Havel River, but are unable to cross the river. Daharwitz is 22 kilometers from the center of Berlin, and lies 35 kilometers southwest of Pyritz.

Big Air Force Ready

Special to the Nippon Times

STOCKHOLM, April 24.—The Moscow radio said today that the German Air Force has massed 1,000 aircraft for the defense of Berlin.

Tempelhof Said Captured

Domei

ZURICH, April 23.—The Tempelhof Airfield, in the southern outskirts of Berlin, was occupied by the Soviet forces, according to a Luxemburg radio broadcast.

Contact Reported Made

Domei

ZURICH, April 23.—The Luxemburg radio says that Marshal Zhukov's forces have contacted the American forces at Torgau, situated on the Elbe River, 100 kilometers south of Berlin.

50 Miles From Munich

Special to the Nippon Times

ZURICH, April 23.—Lieutenant General George Patton's 3rd Army advanced 28 miles in the Bavarian area today, joining the southern offensive of the anti-Axis forces which have crossed the German Danube Line and are now within 50 miles of Munich.

In the North, the British forces opened their final assault against Bremen, and the U.S. 1st and 9th Armies anxiously awaited a junction with the Soviet forces, according to a Paris dispatch. The U.S. 1st Army occupied Dessau, 52 miles northwest of Berlin. General Patton's forces are now within 128 miles of Berchtesgaden and within 25 miles of Regensburg. The American 3rd Army, operating on the left of Lieutenant General Alexander M. Patch's 7th Army, is now within 50 miles of Munich and 110 miles of the Brenner Pass. The French forces on the right wing, have advanced around Lake Constance, the western edge of the redoubt General Jacob L. Dever's 6th Army Group has occupied Stuttgart and Freiburm, while the U.S. 7th Army was last reported crossing the Danube River.

Frankfurt Occupation Announced

Domei

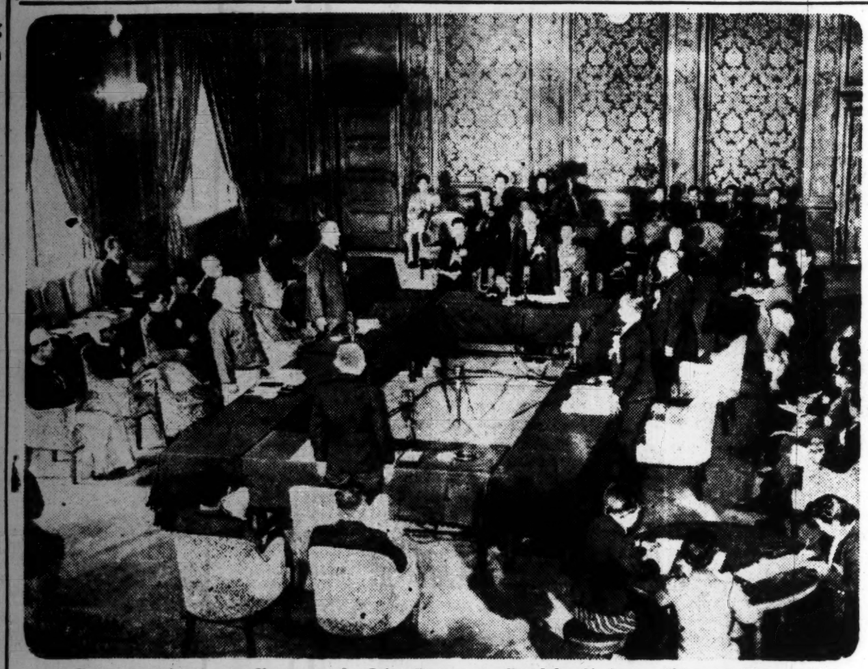
ZURICH, April 23.—Marshal Josef Stalin issued an announcement today stating that the 1st Ukrainian Army had occupied the Bankof, Oranienburg, Koepek and Friedrichsfelde areas in their operations against Berlin. The announcement also declared that Frankfurt on the Oder, which had been encircled by the Soviet forces for some time, had been occupied by the Soviet forces.

British Envoy to Spain Picked

Special to the Nippon Times

STOCKHOLM, April 22.—Sir Victor Bennet has been appointed new British Ambassador to Spain in succession to Lord Templewood (Sir Samuel Hoare), according to a London report today. Bennet had been Minister to Stockholm since 1940.

Joint Statement Is Approved



By an unanimous standing vote, the Joint Statement offered by Chairman Shigenori Togo at the Ambassadors' Conference of East Asiatic Nations, held on Monday, is enthusiastically endorsed.

Envoys at East Asia Conference Pledge Efforts for Common Weal

The Ambassadors of Manchoukuo, China, Burma, Thailand and the Philippines as well as the Chairman of the Indian Independence League, Nippon Territorial Committee, delivered stirring addresses at the Ambassadors' Conference of East-Asiatic Nations which was successfully held in Tokyo on Monday. The following are the full texts of their various views as expressed at the epochal meeting.

WANG YUN-CHING,
Manchoukuo Ambassador

Today the ambassadors of the various countries in Greater East Asia have assembled, and after exchanging their frank views on the ideals relating to the construction of a Greater East Asia, they are to disseminate throughout the world the spirit of Asiatic morality upon which this work of building is founded. And I deem it a great honor to have this opportunity of expressing my opinions.

East Asia has been in the past the land of our ancestors. For over 6,000 years we have lived in peace with our neighbors and, at the same time, enjoyed a life of self-sufficiency.

However, the United States and Britain, extending their evil grasp across the ocean taking advantage of our defenseless state, sent their men-of-war and took possession of our islands and planned the penetration of our homeland. And with utter disregard for the lives of our people, they have perpetrated misdeeds which knew no bound and have trampled mercilessly upon our one billion people.

Japan, desiring to eliminate this evil attempt, has been vanguard nation fighting for the liberation of the East Asiatic peoples. And today, Japan forms not only the center of Greater East Asia but also the spearhead of the Greater East Asiatic peoples.

Envious of Japan

Ever since the Meiji Restoration Japan has been successful in meeting and overcoming the numerous hardships brought on by Anglo-American ambitions directed against her. As a result of rapid perfection of her domestic, foreign and military affairs, she emerged victorious in the Sino-Japanese war and later defeated Tsarist Russia to become one of the great world powers.

Envious of Japan's rapid climb to power, the world powers, especially the United States and Britain, began to exert pressure against Greater East Asia, and its 1,000,000,000 peoples were made to suffer under their yoke.

Japan, as a true neighbor, could not bear to stand idly by and watch this state of affairs. She arose to meet the situation, basing her action firmly upon the spirit of Asiatic morality. This then is the War of Greater East Asia.

There can be no question as to what will be the ultimate fate of the United States and Britain, who are waging a bestial war relying on mere material power. The sudden death of President Roosevelt may be said to have been caused by the righteous hand of God.

At present, with divine help, the countries of Greater East Asia, although facing a serious war situation, have not the slightest doubt of ultimate victory seeing that the Special Attack Corps of the Imperial Forces have gone into action in the Okinawa area, inflicting tremendous casualties on the enemy and scoring brilliant war results.

It is highly regrettable, however, that certain European countries, formerly allied to the Axis nations, have succumbed to Anglo-American pressure and have turned against us.

But it is gratifying to note that the nations of Greater East Asia, adhering sincerely and ardently to the Five Great Principles contained in the Greater East Asia Joint Declaration adopted a year and a half ago have reaped such fruitful results. By this conference we have increased still further the solidarity of the Greater East Asia Common Prosperity Sphere. Most sacredly do we regard the Joint Declaration which in no way can be compared with the sinister war aims and post-war plans of the United States and Britain.

We have complete faith in our victory in the present war, because it is a struggle for the reconstruction of East Asia, for the preservation of our posterity, for the prevention of our enslavement and for our freedom.

It is asked that the one billion people of Greater East Asia bring to bear their indomitable spirit and put their fullest strength behind the brilliant strategy and valiant fighting of the Japanese Forces. I am firm in my conviction that if they but do so the defeat of the enemy will be inevitable.

At the outset of this war, our Emperor stated that the relations between Manchoukuo and Japan should be inseparable in life or death. True to the Imperial wish, our officials and people have done everything possible spiritually and materially to increase productive power.

Because of this, munitions production has shown a daily increase and Manchoukuo is playing a full part as the commissary base for Greater East Asia.

Our country pledges its renewed efforts to fulfil its great mission in the struggle for the existence of the 1,000,000,000 peoples of Greater East Asia.

This war indeed will determine the rise or fall of the one billion people of Greater East Asia and is a sacred war in response to the long years of assistance extended by Japan.

In view of the fact that the Japanese war aim is solely to liberate the peoples of Greater East Asia, it is sincerely hoped that the nations of Greater East Asia will, with sincerity, drive ahead for the successful prosecution of this war.

TSAI PEI
Chinese Ambassador

"Today we are met in the first conference of the Ambassadors of the Greater East Asiatic Nations since the Assembly of Greater East Asiatic Nations. I feel that it is deeply significant that we envoys of the Greater East Asiatic Nations are met in this hall to carry through the principles of the Joint Declaration of Greater East Asiatic Nations and to express our determination for the successful prosecution of the War of Greater East Asia at a time when the situation around us is extremely intense, when the war situation is indeed serious and has entered the decisive stage.

"It is my firm conviction that this conference sponsored by His Excellency Foreign Minister Togo will certainly be more than 100 per cent successful and leave an eternal record in the future history of diplomacy. I consider it indeed an honor to be able to join in this grand function.

"It was China that first suffered disaster when the evil hand of aggression of Anglo-American imperialism was extended toward East Asia. Since the Opium wars, the methods of the United States and Britain became still more bluntly evil, their aspirations increased still more and their poison of economic aggression penetrated deeper.

"Dr. Sun Yat-sen, the Father of the Republic, has bitterly shown their evil aspirations in his Racialism, Greater East Asianism and discourse on the Problem of the Rise or Fall of China. Our China cannot but fall eternally into a colonial status if she is not liberated from such an aggressive yoke of the United States and Britain. But in the recent history of East Asia it is shown that the resistance of the nations of East Asia against the Anglo-American imperialists is clearly a people, resistance. Against this, the Anglo-American imperialists are employing on the one hand, their material power and developed weapons and, on the other, their usual method of divide and rule.

Key to Liberation

"Because of this, we East Asiatic peoples have been suffering for the long period of a century under their deception and trampling. Today, the Anglo-American imperialists have not only not reconsidered but have increased still further their appetite for domination. They are actually scheming for the obliteration of the justice and culture of the East Asiatic peoples and to establish a world dictated by themselves. During the long period of the past 100 years, we have undergone sufferings akin to having our flesh cut. Today, at a time of a great change in the current of the world, we can no longer sit idly by and sanction their evil policies. This present War of Greater East Asia is the key to the liberation of us peoples of Greater East Asia. It follows that we must concentrate the total power of our Greater East Asia for the successful prosecution of this sacred war.

"Today the enemy United States and Britain are, with their abundant material power, driving to complete their evil war for the conquest of the world. But our ally Japan is, with her calm and courageous spiritual power, inflicting heavy blows on the enemy, and the other Greater East Asiatic countries too, in their part, are continuing their efforts.

"The late President Wang Ching-wei pointed out to us that in the War of Greater East Asia we should go through the same joys and sorrows with our allies and to live or die together. We do not waver from the will of the late President Wang to prosecute successfully the War of Greater East Asia and to liberate the peoples of Greater East Asia.

"During the more than three years of the War of Greater East Asia the countries which have been liberated include the nations of Burma and the Philippines. This is the outstanding proof of the liberation of the East Asiatic peoples in the War of Greater East Asia.

"China took part in the current war. She participated in the Assembly of Greater East Asiatic Nations in 1943. Since then she has been placed in relations with the rest of the Greater East Asiatic Nations through mutual help and cooperation. This is because these nations are necessitated by their self-existence and the prosperity of the East Asiatic nations. Their rally is one based on justice and is radically different from intrigues and plots of great countries such as the United States and Britain to carry out their ambitions and to divide the world's resources. To explain this more clearly, the American and British imperialism aims at placing weak nations and other countries under their militaristic or economic rule. The intrigues of theirs have been completely disclosed before our own eyes and naturally we are forced to frustrate completely their sinister designs aiming at their exploitation, oppression, their so-called guarantee for security, and racial discrimination.

War of Justice

"The Greater East Asia War is a war of justice on the part of the Greater East Asiatic nations challenging the American and British imperialism and at the same time a war for their self-defense. Speaking from China's stand, this is a sacred war and war of liberation by which she intends to get off the American and British shackles for a century. We are trying to get China's rehabilitation, independence and autonomy and at the same time to bring about freedom and equality of the 1,000,000,000 East Asiatic peoples. We are fully resolved to make closer the relations among the Greater East Asiatic nations in conformity to the joint declaration and its five basic principles adopted at the Assembly of the Greater East Asiatic Nations in 1943. The total strength of Greater East Asia should be concentrated on the achievement of the current war to a successful end, thereby liberating the Greater East Asiatic nations, bringing about a genuine world peace and establishing a fair and just new world order."

DR. THEIN MAUNG
Burmese Ambassador

Your Excellency, Chairman and Excellencies,

I have listened with great attention and respect to Your Excellency's speech, as well as to the speeches made by my honorable colleagues of Manchoukuo and China. I am happy to state that I most heartily agree with the sentiments expressed

(Continued on Page 2 Col 3)

FOREIGN MINISTER TOGO IS HOST TO ASIA ENVOYS

Expresses Gratitude for Co-operation Shown at Parley By Ambassadors

Foreign Minister Shigenori Togo, concurrently Minister of Greater East Asiatic Affairs, was host at a dinner party at his official residence on April 23 to commemorate the Ambassadors' Conference of Greater East Asiatic Nations.

The envoys attending the party were Wang Yun-ching, Manchoukuo Ambassador, and other Ambassadors of Greater East Asiatic countries and their suites, and H. G. Stahmer, German Ambassador.

On the side of the host were present Prime Minister Admiral Baron Kantaro Suzuki, War Minister General Korechika Anami, Finance Minister Toyosaku Hirose, Dr. Hiroshi Shimomura, President of the Board of Information, and many other officials. The speech by Foreign Minister Togo delivered at the function follows:

"It is most gratifying that with the unanimous assent of the Governments of the Allied Countries of Greater East Asia the Ambassadors' Conference of the Greater East Asiatic Nations has been held, and abundant results have been achieved with respect to the vital matters concerning the full attainment of our war aims and the strengthening of the solidarity of Greater East Asia.

"It is out of my desire, as representative of the sponsor nation to have an opportunity of expressing my gratitude for the cooperation extended by the Ambassadors and the members of their suites that this dinner has been prepared. I am greatly honored that Your Excellencies and gentlemen, in spite of the fact you must be very tired, have been so gracious to come here this evening.

"I am also deeply grateful that Their Excellencies the Ambassadors of our allied powers in Europe who are gallantly fighting for the common objective and the Chairman of the Indian Independence League in Japan who attended the Conference on behalf of the Provisional Government of Azad Hind have honored us with their presence.

"Since the determination and cooperation of the friendly powers has been more than fully elucidated at the Conference today, I think it proper to refrain from dwelling on those matters. So, with these few words I should now like to propose a toast to the health of Your Excellencies and Gentlemen."

The German Ambassador also spoke on the occasion as follows:

"Mr. Foreign Minister,

"Your Excellencies, gentlemen,

"I feel the sincere desire to express my heartfelt thanks to His Excellency, the Imperial Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Shigenori Togo, for the kind invitation to tonight's dinner party and for the friendly words of greeting with which he has addressed us just now. This evening gives me the welcome opportunity to be together with His Excellency, the Foreign Minister, and with other leading Japanese personalities as well as with the representatives of the European and Greater East Asiatic States which are allied with Japan in this gigantic war. I am delighted to cooperate anew with the Foreign Minister for the benefit of our allied countries, Japan and Germany, in the spirit of our years-old trustful relations and I wish, also on this occasion, to testify for the close and unshakable community of alliance which links up our two nations in their fateful struggle. We are standing, Your Excellencies and gentlemen, in a grave and decisive phase of our common fight for life, liberty and independent development. From all sides, on the earth, at sea and in the air, the enemy is attacking us and trying, by exploiting his superiority in men and material, to achieve a turning of the war favorable to him. In spite of this huge stake, our common enemies are met on all fronts by the same heroic resistance, by the same inflexible determination of our allied peoples, to defend their just cause, their existence and their future by all means to the utmost. The enemy reckons on his superiority in numbers and material, we rely upon the heroic spirit living in our nations. Full of admiration, we are looking on the glorious deeds of our Armies, Navies and Air Forces which over and over again prove their fighting superiority over the enemy. I am particularly glad to express at this occasion my most cordial congratulations to the Imperial Japanese Government on the splendid defensive successes scored just now by the Imperial Japanese Armed Forces in the fighting for the Okinawa Islands. I am happy that the alliance of our peoples has led to an ever closer and more harmonious collaboration whilst in the camp of our enemies the antagonisms and conflicts come to the fore ever more openly. Above all I am delighted that the heroic spirit which guides us in this war, is the same in Japan and Germany and with their allies. This spirit of our peoples, their unbreakable union in emergency and peril, and the knowledge to fight for a just cause are the surest guarantees that we will master our destiny and nail victory on our colors. In this spirit, I ask all who are present to raise their glasses with me and drink to the brave Japanese Army Forces, to the Imperial Japanese Government and to the prosperity of His Excellency, the Foreign Minister, Mr. Togo.

The function, which started at 6:30 p.m. was over shortly after 9 p.m.

34 Army Officers Win Promotion By 2 Ranks for Gallantry in War

Thirty-four Army officers headed by Major Hitoyuki Kato of the Second Mitate Air Unit of the Shichisho Special Attack Corps who carried out daring ramming actions against the British task forces that attacked Palembang, Sumatra Island, on January 29 this year and who were granted citations under date of February 24, have now been posthumously honored either by two-rank or extraordinary promotions, the War Ministry announced on Monday. Text of the announcement follows:

"The following promotions were made:

"Major Hitoyuki Kato has been promoted to the rank of colonel.

"Captain Hikoichi Ohashi has been promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel.

"Lieutenant Natsuki Fukunaga has been promoted to the rank of major.

"Special Sergeant Majors Toyoo Sasaki and Isamu Kido have been promoted to the rank of lieutenant.

"Sergeant Majors Fujio Sarutani, Eisaku Tada, Tatsumi Akiyoshi, Hideo Ishimoto, Sakuji Tanikawa, Ichiro Yanagisawa, Katsumi Saeki, Ryuji Aoye, Sergeants Sadao Ohira, Kiyoshi Okabe, Shigendo Nakamura, Junji Fukuda, Norihide Fujino, Kazuma Sasaba, Koichi Muranaka, Shuichi Akishiro, Kaoru Tanimoto, Shiro Takami, Eiko Matsuhira, Hiroshi Iwami, Corporals Tetsuo Oishi, Tsunejiro Nishihara, Jinichi Takahashi, Makoto Takiguchi, Kiyooki Kanamaru, Hiroshi Ishimoto, Kichiun Tawara, Masanao Nakamura and Shinichiro Miura have been promoted to the rank of sublieutenant."

Aviation Unit Honored

For designing and perfecting special attack planes and particularly for its tireless efforts, day and night, at a certain front base in the inspection and adjustment of special attack planes after their arrival, the Masaki Aviation Technical Corps, headed by Major-General Hiroshi Masaki, was given special commendation by Director-General Kumaichi Teramoto of the Army Aviation Headquarters, it was announced by the War Ministry Monday.

COMMENDATION

"Masaki Aviation Technical Corps

"Upon receiving the order to conduct study and investigation into matters concerning special attack arms, the above corps under the proper guidance and control of its commander Major-General Hiroshi Masaki completed various studies and investigations required under the urgent wartime requirements and immensely contributed to the increase of the attacking strength against warships and other ships.

"Upon the opening of the air operation in the Okinawa area, the corps was ordered to guide the special attack equipments. Under the commander it bravely and courageously advanced to the operating area, and conquering many difficulties under constant fierce enemy air raids, carried out the inspection and repairing of all special attack planes upon their arrival as well as the guidance and training of airmen. Thus perfecting the preparation of our attack on enemy planes the corps has made it possible for the Army special attack corps to execute their operations to smash enemy warships.

"This is the manifestation of the special attack spirit of the entire members of the corps united as one around the commander under his proper and resolute command and control, and may also be said to have been the result of the study and efforts made by the commander and his corps in ordinary days. Their action well becomes a model for all technical corps to follow, and thus this commendation is given.

"April 19, 20th year of Showa

Kumaichi Teramoto
Director-General of the
Army Aviation
Headquarters."

Extraordinary Fete Of Yasukuni Shrine Will Be Held Today

The Spring Extraordinary Grand Festival of Yasukuni Shrine will be held today following the deification rites which were solemnly observed last night. Among the 41,318 heroes who were deified last night as gods of the nation's defense was Fleet Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, late Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Fleet. The Chairman of the Extraordinary Grand Festival Committee is Admiral Zengo Yoshida.

U.S.S.R., Poland Sign Pact

Domei

STOCKHOLM, April 21.—A pact of amity and mutual assistance was signed at Moscow tonight between the Soviet Government and the Polish Provisional Government of National Unity of Warsaw, a Moscow dispatch disclosed. No details were announced but it is believed that the treaty is similar to those signed by Moscow with Britain, France, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia.

Ross Made Press Secretary

Special to the Nippon Times

LISBON, April 22.—President Truman announced today that Charles Ross, Washington correspondent of the St. Louis Post Dispatch, has been named the White House press secretary, it was reported from Washington.

Petrov on Way to Chungking

Special to the Nippon Times

LISBON, April 22.—The new Soviet Ambassador to Chungking, A. A. Petrov, left Moscow yesterday by special plane for Chungking accompanied by his wife and two daughters, according to a Chungking report. Mr. Petrov succeeds Ambassador A. S. Paniushkin.

12 ENEMY WARSHIPS SUNK OR DAMAGED OFF OKINAWA

Toll Includes 2 Carriers; Several Ships of Unknown Type Also Crippled

By Courtesy of the Press Section

Air Units of the Japanese Special Attack Corps sank or damaged two U.S. aircraft carriers and 10 other large warships including battleships and cruisers, besides damaging several warcraft of unidentified category on April 22 when they attacked enemy surface forces in the waters around the main Okinawa Island on the heels of the recent ramming-offensive drive.

Meanwhile, Imperial Japanese Land Forces on the main Okinawa Island that have been continuing their counterattacks at every point, have killed or wounded about 6,000 invasion troops in less than five days since the enemy began his general attack against our first lines on April 19.

In addition, the Japanese blasted or put out of action 80 tanks, 11 guns, and four war material dumps besides many trucks. In the same period, the war trophies seized by the Japanese were two trench mortars, 37 light and heavy machine-guns and two anti-tank guns. Large quantities of ammunition were also captured.

Backed by 10-odd tanks, about 1,000 U.S. infantry troops began a new offensive drive toward Uebaru, one and a half kilometers southwest of Tsuha, and Tanabaru, one kilometer south of Gajoko, where severe fighting is now underway.

In the area west of Tonzan, one kilometer south of Kakazu, the activity of the enemy forces has not been positive in recent days, and they are now trying to reinforce their strength for further attempts to effect penetrations.

U.S. Troops Advance

Japanese Air Units again struck the U.S. surface forces in the sea area off Katena when altogether 37 pillars of flame were seen from the main Okinawa Island within eight hours from shortly after 9 p.m. on April 21. Other Japanese Air Units attacked the enemy in the vicinity of the Kerama group at dusk the next day when 20 flame pillars were observed in the battle zone.

At the Central Airfield explosions occurred at more than 17 places and fires broke out at three other places between the night of April 21 and the following morning as the result of Japanese air attacks. The North Airfield was also hit heavily by the Japanese during the small hours of April 22 when more than three places were blasted and set ablaze.

Heavy fighting continues on the main Okinawa Island. In particular, fierce engagements are now developing in the area west of the central part of the island where the Japanese are carrying out grand-scale bleeding operations against heavy odds. However, a part of the enemy forces was able to move forward in the vicinity of Iso, north of Gusukuma, on April 21. Japanese Infantry and Artillery Units are now engaging the attackers in severe counterattacks.

B-29'S BOMB TACHIKAWA

Shimizu, Shizuoka Areas Also Hit—6 Raiders Downed

About 120 Marianas-based B-29 bombers divided into several echelon formations raided the Tachikawa, Shimizu and Shizuoka areas from 8:20 a.m. on Tuesday.

After concentrating over the waters south of Izu the enemy's main air strength proceeded from the area west of Shimoda on the Izu Peninsula shortly after 8 a.m. and bombed the Japanese Air Force facilities in the vicinity of Tachikawa: A part of the B-29 formations raided the Shimizu and Shizuoka areas, principally bombing munitions factories.

The raiders fled toward the southern sea area one after another at about 9:30 a.m. from the direction of Suruga Bay and Hamamatsu.

Strongly counterattacking the enemy bombers, Japanese Anti-Air Raid Forces shot down six besides damaging 20 others, this being the results obtained by Japanese Air Units as confirmed up to 11 a.m. Japanese Land Forces also obtained considerable results which, however, are now under investigation together with the damage caused to the ground facilities on our side.

U.S. Navy Casualties Bared

Domei

LISBON, April 21.—American naval, marine and coast guard casualties since the outbreak of the war up to today totaled 98,330, the United States Navy Department announced today, a Washington dispatch said.

Nippon Times

Published by The Nippon Times, Ltd.

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BRANCH OFFICES:
OSAKA: Dojima Bldg. Tel. Kita 1770.
KOBE: 48, Naniwa-machi, Kobe-ku. Tel. Sannomiya 3970-7.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
One month, ¥6.00; six months, ¥35.00; one year ¥68.00. Postage free to all parts of the Japanese Empire, Manchoukuo, China and the Southern Regions. For foreign countries, postage, ¥1.50 per month extra. All subscriptions are payable in advance.

Publisher and Printer:
SHOICHI KAWAMURA

TOKYO, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 1945

The San Francisco Conference

The eyes of the world naturally turn to San Francisco today where the enemy nations' Conference on International Organization at last gets under way. Heralded by a fanfare of extravagant propaganda, it is being hailed in enemy quarters as an epochal move to insure world peace. As to the ambitious scope of the work to be taken up by the conference there is no question, but as to the claim that it is designed to insure world peace the evidence points emphatically to the contrary.

Already before the conference opens, it is clear that innumerable thorny problems beset it with insuperable obstacles to render its success most unlikely. To be sure the participants can be counted on to emerge with some sort of a compromise scheme, but it is obvious that the resulting product will be far from the complete or consistent design which the sponsors originally envisaged.

One of the problems which will strain the conference to the utmost is the perennial problem of Poland. The Soviet Union is still insistently demanding that the present Polish regime at Warsaw be invited to the conference, while Britain and the United States just as adamantly maintain that Poland cannot be represented until a new "Provisional Government of National Unity" is formed. Behind this controversy lies the fact that the Yalta Conference failed to settle the old bitter rivalry in which the Anglo-American Powers have persistently opposed the extension of effective Soviet influence over Poland. And this rivalry, still being unsettled, will unfailingly flare up anew to plague the conference at San Francisco.

Still another problem which will disturb the conference is the Soviet Union's demand for separate representation and separate votes for the White Russian and the Ukrainian Soviet Republics. The motive of the Soviet Union is perfectly understandable in view of the virtual control which Britain and the United States possess, in fact although not in theory, over the votes of the Dominions and of the subservient Latin American countries respectively. But the very fact that this problem will be raised at the conference means that the whole troublesome problem of multiple votes, to which there can be no really satisfactory solution, will further wrack the already strained atmosphere of the conference.

A problem which lies closer to the heart of the central aim of the conference is the problem of regional pacts and alliances within the framework of the projected international organization. Certain countries, notably France and perhaps the Soviet Union, favor the automatic invocation of sanctions under regional alliances, whereas the United States, anxious to maintain its right to a voice in decisions affecting any part of the world, insists that the Security Council, which it expects to dominate, should have the right to pass on each individual case in which sanctions are to be invoked.

An even more fundamental problem which will engender bitter feelings in the conference concerns the differing status and privileges of the various nations. The authors of the proposed plan of international organization frankly make a clear distinction between the Great Powers and the lesser Powers. The Great Powers are to have permanent seats in the Security Council; they are to dominate its decisions through a tricky voting procedure; they are to enjoy the right of veto. All the other nations are lumped together in the single category of minor states, represented only in the powerless Assembly, and allowed only to elect a minority in the Security Council who, moreover, will not be eligible for re-election to successive terms.

Against such a discriminatory arrangement all save the Great Powers are frankly resentful. The really small nations, to be sure, are powerless to do anything but vainly protest or sulk. But the countries of intermediate stature, possessing some military power and some political influence, refuse to acquiesce passively in an arrangement which arbitrarily places them on the same degraded level as the least of the minor states. These intermediate Powers are demanding that a formal recognition be accorded to their position by setting up for them a more privileged status than that of the general run of minor states, such as a more influential and at least semi-permanent representation on the Security Council. Their demand, if recognized, would mean the differentiation of the nations of the world into three categories instead of two.

Such an arrangement would not eliminate the evil of discrimination; in fact, it would only add the problem of a more complex discrimination. But the countries like Canada which are strongly championing the position of the intermediate Powers are not likely to be deterred on that account; while France, although theoretically accorded the status of a Great Power, apparently fearful that it would in effect be pushed down into the ranks of the minor states, seems to be preparing to ensure at least an intermediate status for itself by associating itself with the claims of the intermediate Powers. All of these tendencies will only have the effect of intensifying the dissensions and increasing the complications in the coming conference sessions.

Underlying all these problems is the bigger issue of the basic rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union. Springing from the inevitable antagonism between these two Colossi who are the natural rivals in the competition for world dominance, these two have come to hold diametrically different conceptions of the role to be played by the proposed international organization. The Soviet Union, with practical realism, is willing to cooperate in so far as the international organization functions in effect as a virtual alliance of the Great Powers, but undoubtedly at heart reserves the right to safeguard its own interests by any additional appropriate means outside of the framework of the international organization. The United States, expecting to utilize the international organization as an instrument to advance its own interests, seeks to tie all nations to a complete commitment to the organization under the pretext of its being an all-inclusive and universal affair. Between these two conceptions there is bound to be a steady tug of war, if not an open clash, at the San Francisco Conference.

But the most fundamental of all the reasons why the San Francisco Conference cannot possibly succeed in its professed aim of ensuring world peace lies in the fact that the whole idea of this projected international organization is based on false premises. World peace can be assured only on the basis of moral justice. The sponsors of this particular scheme for world organization are proceeding in violation of every principle of moral justice. They envisage a world order dominated by a few Great Powers for their own special advantage; they plan to impose their arbitrary will upon others by a system of sanctions based on military force; they deny equality and freedom not only to the lesser states but to all the oppressed peoples of the earth who are to remain subject to the imperialistic domination of the Great Powers; they make no effort to abolish discriminations based on race; they confine their international organization to nations which are engaged in the present war on their side, flaunting the universalism which alone can bring peace to all the world; they make no provisions for the encouragement or interchange of culture.

Such an international organization as the San Francisco Conference proposes to promote will therefore be an empty shell of legal machinery and mechanistic devices devoid of all moral or spiritual substance. Power politics and selfish machinations for individual advantage will be free to sweep rampant through its structure. Unlike the world order envisaged by the nations of Greater East Asia which would be based on moral justice, the world organization of the enemy nations, lacking a moral basis, can only result in further strife and confusion. Whatever may be the outward shape of the organization which the San Francisco Conference may succeed in erecting, it will be the framework for a reign of further wars and not of lasting peace.

E. Asia Envoys Voice Common Weal Effort

(Continued From Page 1)

therein.

On the 5th and 6th of November 1943, all the leaders of Greater East Asia gathered in this very place and came to historic conclusions which have become known as The Charter of Greater East Asia.

From amongst those, the great leader of China, His Excellency Wang Ching-wei, has gone the way of all flesh and is no more in our midst. Though his physical body is no more with us, I am sure his spirit and ideas are still guiding us, and I take this opportunity to give my most humble respects to his memory.

Burma, as Your Excellencies are aware, has a tradition of its own. For centuries, it held its own sovereignty. Though occasionally, conflicts arose with neighbors, generally, the Burmese Kings ruled over Burma with love and sympathy and were friendly toward the neighboring countries as fraternal allies. However, in the last century, our Burmese Kings gave more time and thought for spiritual improvement than for material development, with the result that after three wars we lost our King and sovereignty and Burma became a subordinate Province of India. Undaunted, however, our patriots worked for the freedom of the country, and scarcely a decade passed without an armed rising. Our patriots were, it must be frankly admitted, no match against the powerful ammunitions of our enemy and therefore many of the patriots were killed and the villages and homes destroyed. But the spirit and ardor of the people remained as strong as ever.

Though as a matter of discretion, they remained quietly for some time they are ever on the lookout for an opportune moment to rise up again and to drive out the enemy from the country. The War of Greater East Asia gave the Burmese the best opportunity to drive out the enemy from its doors, thanks to the guidance and cooperation of the mighty Imperial Nippon Forces, the enemy was driven out of the country in six months time. Since then the Burmese have been guarding, with all their might and strength, the Western Gate of Greater East Asia. Frail and fragile though the Burmese Army appear to be, their spirit is ever strong. Guided by the Buddhistic principle,

"That it is better to die fighting in battle than to be alive a slave," the Burmese soldiers will fight out to the last.

No Love for British

Though for over a hundred years the British ruled over Burma it is significant that there is not a single Burman who loves them. Even among those who had to serve the Government, only about .01 per cent cared to flee along with the British to India. That is because heart being won only by the heart and as only love begets love, and there being no love on the part of the British officials for the Burmese people, no Burmese could reciprocate in spite of their innate generous and hospitable nature. In the absence of love there cannot be happiness, nor can there be harmony or coordination. Hence the idea of coprosperity cannot exist, and without the ideal of co-prosperity and mutual respect and sympathy no two nations can work or live together. For this reason the Burmese people will ever fight the British till we come out victorious in this War and the independence of Burma is retained.

The New Order of the East is based upon justice, equality and reciprocity, i.e. upon the great principle of live and let live. With such a principle as the foundation of the international order I have no doubt that we of East Asia will be able to combine together and work for the common good, that is, for the co-prosperity ideal. The British, with their sense of racial superiority will never concede to the Burmese the full sovereign right. The postwar plan contemplated by the British has not satisfied even a few Burmese refugees, who fled with them and are now in India.

With these few words I welcome the views of the Imperial Japanese Government, so explicitly and un- ..... ally expressed by Your Excellency. With all goodwill amongst us, I do hope that our strength will be stronger and stronger every day, and that we shall be able to fight the present War to its victorious end. Your Excellencies, I thank you all for giving me a patient hearing.

W. WICHIT-WATHAKAN,
Thai Ambassador

Your Excellency, Mr. Chairman, Excellencies and Gentlemen,

It is with the greatest interest and attention that I have followed the speeches, made at this meeting. The expression of views supported by the flood of eloquence on the part of Mr. Chairman and of my honorable colleagues has impressed me deeply and filled my heart with strong emotion. The speeches made before me have been so accurate and so complete that I can hardly have something more to add. I entirely approve of the views already expressed. This Ambassadors' Conference is, no doubt, very useful. I am one of the keenest admirers of the Joint Declaration adopted by the Assembly of the Greater East Asiatic Nations on the 6th November 1943. I do not only consider it as fundamental principles of the political, economic and cultural relations between the Asiatic Nations, but I always call the five points of the Joint Declaration, Five Commandments of the East. I heartily welcome the convocation of this Ambassadors' Conference because it is the continuation of the work of constructing an edifice for the prosperity of East Asia, the foundation of which was carefully laid in 1943, the skilful architects including Dr. Wang Ching-wei who most regrettably left us for ever and to whom I beg to pay my profound and sincere respect.

In this life-and-death struggle, we, the Asiatic Nations, have only one path to walk in. That is to follow the lead of Japan, our elder sister who has constantly shown us her broadmindedness and sincerity of aim. Our Asiatic Nations were born independent. We do not only love our own independence but we also respect independence of the others. The Asiatic History of old time showed that in spite of many wars waged between us we have not destroyed national independence of each other.

The idea of destroying independence of an organized nation and of making the entire nation a permanent slave of the other came from outside Asia and many of our Asiatic nations were victims. Many of us lost our national independence and some of us have had a master for a considerable length of time. But I firmly believe in the principle of a well-known philosopher, Jean-Rousseau, who wrote in one of his famous works that no man is strong enough . . . of other men for ever.

Proved by World Events

This principle has been proved to be just by many great events of the world especially by the War of Greater East Asia. Those who tried to be master of Asia forever were chased away within the short period of a few months after the outbreak of the war. Our Asiatic nations have regained independence, thanks to the indomitable courage and sublime sacrifice of the brave sons of Japan to whom I take this opportunity to pay my most respectful homages. Those brave men have fought and are now still fighting for nothing but independence and well-being of our Asiatic nations and we are eternally grateful to them.

This is, Excellencies, the first point of view that I venture to express in this Conference. I wish that one of the final outcomes of this conference be the re'teration of the confirmation of equality, reciprocity, and mutual respect. Let us voice in this Conference our strong support of independence of all Asiatic nations regardless of race and creed. Let us wipe out the colonial status from our glorious Asiatic soil and let our pure land of Asia be cleaned from slavery. Let our enemies know that our war aim is righteous and virtuous and the righteousness and virtue will help us to win this war.

As a man of culture, I cannot help thinking that apart from the military, political and economic cooperation which my honorable colleagues have already referred to, the cultural intercourse is also of prime importance. The matter has already been mentioned in the Joint Declaration adopted by the last assembly but culture is so important that it will not be superfluous to speak of it again in this Conference.

I do not want to repeat other points of views already expressed by my honorable colleagues. I only wish to state that I share those views and I welcome all idea which will be helpful for the prosecution of the Greater East Asia War to the successful conclusion.

As representative of the Thai Nation I can positively say that the Thai people in general and the fervent patriots in particular have full confidence in Japan for her goodwill and sincerity toward the Thai Nation. During three and half centuries of our relation there has never been a single case of dispute or conflict between Japan and Thailand. It is always my pleasant feeling to recollect the kind words contained in the letter addressed by the Great Shogun Iyeyasu to the King of Thailand dated October 22, 1606, that is to say 339 years ago in which the Great Shogun said that even though our countries are situated far away from each other, friendship makes us close to one another.

Recalls Historical Fact

The Thai people know and appreciate the historical fact that in September, 1623 the Shogun Hidetada announced that in case the Japanese residents in Cambodia and the Cambodian army in war against Thailand they will be punished. However, the Japanese residents in Thailand had never been forbidden to help the Thai army in waging war with other countries. Everyone knows how Yamada Nagamasa had rendered meritorious service to Thailand. The Thai people are very proud to be told by the historical records that even during the period of seclusion in which all Japanese ports were closed to foreign vessels, Thai vessels were still allowed to enter the Japanese ports.

The Thai people have always realized that Japan and Thailand must have the same destiny. This is also due to historical facts. It is still fresh in our memory that in 1864 when negotiations on one important matter were still going on, a naval expedition was organized by the British, Dutch, French and Americans to bombard Shimonoseki. After several days of bombardment, the four countries above named succeeded in forcing Japan to pay them 3,000,000 dollars. Thirty years later, exactly the same event happened in Thailand. In 1894 the French warships forced the entry into Bangkok and made us pay them 3,000,000 Gold Francs. The picture of shipment of gold in French warships is still vivid in the memory of many old Thai men who shed tears in narrating this event to the young generation.

But it is not in the spirit of revenge or hatred that we are fighting this war. We know that the war is not a merry game and we have entered into it because we were forced by our enemies to do so. We are fighting not by greed or illegitimate ambition but by the necessity of preserving our independence, our right and our proper place as human beings in this human world, and, therefore, we must fight to the bitter end. I have always the firm confidence that victory will be at our side. In all ages, the right always won over the wrong.

In conclusion, I beg, in the name of the Thai Government, to express my sincere thanks to the Japanese Government for their initiative and the pains taken in organizing this Conference. I express my earnest wishes for the success of this Conference, the outcome of which, I am sure, will be of great benefit for all Asiatic nations.

JORGE VARGAS
Philippine Ambassador

As the dreadful holocaust of global war enters upon its decisive phase, the nations and peoples of the earth are undoubtedly more resolved than ever to rebuild human society upon saner, more just, and more lasting foundations, and speaking for the Republic of the Philippines and our determined President, I am profoundly happy and proud that we East Asians have been afforded this opportunity, upon the initiative of the Imperial Japanese Government, to proclaim anew those principles which we believe will lead to a true and just world order. East Asia has a message of encouragement and good cheer for our hate—and war-torn world, and I deem it the duty, the unavoidable duty, of East Asia, to raise its voice at this solemn and momentous juncture of human history in order to reiterate the fundamental tenets of its faith for the future.

What are these ideals of East Asia? As so eloquently expounded by His Excellency, the Foreign Minister of the Imperial Japanese Government, the Assembly of Greater East Asiatic Nations convened in this very hall a year and a half ago enunciated them as peace and common prosperity pursued through the cooperative efforts of our countries and peoples, working together on a basis of mutual respect and mutual trust, mutual toleration and mutual assistance, without discrimination, oppression, or exploitation of any kind. The Joint Declaration which proclaimed these principles cannot, I believe, be surpassed by any other pronouncement of this war in the nobility of its ideals and the loftiness of its purposes and conceptions.

The equal right of every nation to be free to seek its own destiny, whether great or small, weak or powerful, rich or poor, of whatever race, color, creed, or political and economic belief, the fraternal collaboration of nations through economic reciprocity, cultural intercourse, and all manner of mutual understanding and assistance for the common good—these are principles which cannot be denied or ignored for they respond to the highest and most sacred aspirations of the human heart. It should be a matter of intense and completely justifiable pride for us East Asians that neither the intoxication of victory nor the burden of momentary reverses has ever obscured or diminished our transcendent loyalty to the supreme cause of world peace and human happiness, open to all and to be shared by all, whether victor or vanquished, whether friend or foe. We have never sought the abasement or ruin of any nation; we have never schemed the enslavement of our fellow man; rather have we always stretched out the hand of friendship and cooperation to all men as human beings of equal honor, equal duties, and equal rights.

These are the ideals of East Asia, definitely enunciated in the Joint Declaration of the Greater East Asiatic Nations. But implied and contained in these propositions was also a practical design for their application, which was the idea of regional cooperation. Recognizing the special ties of blood and ancient and unavoidable intercourse among a group of kindred and neighboring nations like our own, we came together under the leadership of the great Japanese Empire, and on a basis of liberty, equality, and justice, to work for our common welfare. In doing this, we sought not to inflict injury on other regional associations which might be similarly established; on the contrary we welcomed their foundation and were ready to cooperate in turn with them for the peace and progress of the entire world. I believe it will be generally admitted that it is this conception of a regional structure which will ultimately prove to be the key for the working operation of that cause. Already we have seen the United States of America attempting to transform its hated Monroe Doctrine into a more palatable good-neighborly Pan-American Union of the 21 American republics of the Western hemisphere. We have seen the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics building an organization of governments and countries in Eastern Europe in sympathy with its ideology. We have seen the British Empire in its turn maneuvering to consolidate a Western European bloc of nations. We have also seen smaller regional blocs established or sought to be established in the Iberian Peninsula, among the Nordic countries, and among the Arab states of the Near East. And finally we have heard proposed innumerable plans for the regional organization of a so-called Union of democracies, or of a so-called Atlantic Community, or of a so-called Pacific Community of nations. What can this be but the spreading recognition of the justice and logic of that original East Asian conception of the Co-prosperity Sphere. Today, when all mankind searches for some enduring design of world order, it is time for us East Asians, in a spirit of sympathy and fraternity for our fellowmen, to proclaim anew our conviction that world order and world peace must be built on the basis of regional order and regional peace. Only on the secure foundations of these natural associations of neighbors, cooperating according to the eternal and just principles enunciated in the Joint Declaration, can a grander structure arise embracing and sheltering the whole of the human race.

The people of the Philippines have an intimate and vital interest in the recognition and application of these principles. We have suffered untold and unimaginable agonies in this conflict. We have not been spared the horrors and excesses of war. Such was the terrible price we have paid for our freedom and independence, a freedom and independence which happily seem now to be assured, however the war may end. But though at long last we may be a free people, we are small and we are weak. Our supreme national interests therefore, as well as the highest principles of humanity which guide our national conscience, demand that we seek the recognition and establishment of the principles of sovereign equality among all nations, and mutual respect, mutual assistance, and mutual protection.

Alone and with the meager resources at our command, we cannot hope to cope with possible aggression. Neither can we hope, alone, to develop and advance as swiftly, as peacefully, and as harmoniously as we desire. It is therefore imperative for the Filipino people to seek the protection of those sublime principles of liberty, equality, and international justice which were enunciated in the Joint Declaration of the Greater East Asiatic Nations, and which have ever been and will ever be the most potent factors for the protection and security of the weak and the poor; and it is equally imperative for us to seek the friendship and fraternal cooperation of our neighbors and kindred peoples in this region of the world which we inhabit, so that harmoniously assisting one another, we may together progress toward our common prosperity, for only in a world of justice and of right can the small nations hope to survive and only in mutual assistance with our friends and neighbors can we hope to prosper.

In a world which is violently torn by mighty forces sweeping unheedingly toward selfish ends, the Filipino people are at the crossroads of their history, but I feel I speak for them when I say that through the surrounding fog of conflicting ideas and ideals, the Filipinos will ever be guided by the radiant vision of justice and brotherhood. Some may look away from East Asia for that vision, but I for one believe with our far-sighted President, Dr. Jose P. Laurel, that ultimately all the Filipinos will come home to East Asia. It may take ten years or even a hundred years but surely, inevitably, the principles of the Joint Declaration and the naturalness of our times will be justified in a great, free, united East Asia, growing in prosperity and happiness amid a new world order of libertes, equality, and moral justice.

Your Excellency, Mr. Chairman, in closing I want to express the ardent hope that this Conference will not close without a firm and confident restatement of the principles of the Joint Declaration of the Greater East Asiatic Nations and of a definite proclamation of the East Asian design for the pursuit of a world order and world peace through regional associations based on natural ties of racial affinity, geographical propinquity or complementary economy. Let this be the contribution of East Asia to the world-wide search for security and order; let the voice of East Asia be heard, asking for the spirit of righteousness, benevolence, and brotherhood, which alone can heal the wounds of humanity and create a new life of peace and happiness for all when complete and final victory shall have been attained.

RAMA MURTI
Chairman of Indian Independence League, Nippon Territorial Committee

Your Excellencies:

I feel myself highly honored and privileged to have been invited to this Conference of the Ambassadors of the nations of Greater East Asia, in the capacity of an observer on behalf of the Provisional Government of Azad Hind.

I sincerely appreciate the courtesy and consideration of H. E. the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nippon for the proposal just made. I am sure that His Excellency Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Head of the Provisional Government of Azad Hind, would fully concur with the decisions arrived at by this Conference, and would be profoundly pleased with the significant move Your Excellencies have made.

In the efforts for the securing of that New Order based on Justice, Freedom and Equality, all those Indians within and outside India, fighting under our tricolor flag of freedom, are fully and solidly with you. For, these ideals and objects embodied in Your Excellencies' Joint Statement are the very ideals which have inspired and animated our ceaseless fight against British aggression in India, which has today climaxed in our War of Liberation under our powerful leader Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

In India, our enemies, the Anglo-Americans have not only denied us these principles, but have consistently and deliberately sacrificed them to their mad lust for power and domination.

India has always been a test-case of Anglo-American professions and claims. While suppressing the freedom and self-determination of the 400 million Indians, our enemies are loudly proclaiming to the world that they are going to usher in a New Dispensation which will bring freedom from all ills. The suffering and enslaved millions of India stand as a mute testimony of their broken promises and hypocritic claims.

The Nations of Greater East Asia have held aloft the torchlight of freedom and equality above the greed, suppression and self-aggrandisement of our enemies. Following the beacon light of these principles our people are determined to march together with the rest of the nations of Greater East Asia through the thick of the gathering storm, toward the bright day of freedom, with firm and unfailing trust in the invincibility of those ideals, and of the justice of our cause.

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